

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 QUITO 01909 191959Z

16

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-12 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 AID-05 EB-07 COME-00 /089 W

----- 127525

R 191323Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY QUITO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4856

INFO AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL

C O N F I D E N T I A L QUITO 1909

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR EC

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT RODRIGUEZ' RETURN TO ECUADOR

1. PRESIDENT RODRIGUEZ LARA RETURNED TO ECUADOR AT 10 A.M. MARCH 17 AFTER A 15-DAY ABSENCE DURING WHICH HE ATTENDED THE OPEC SUMMIT CONFERENCE IN ALGIERS, AND CONDUCTED STATE VISITS TO RUMANIA AND VENEZUELA. WHAT APPEARED TO BE MOST OF QUITO TURNED OUT TO RECEIVE HIM IN A WELL-ORGANIZED "SPONTANEOUS" DEMONSTRATION OF ENTHUSIASM: SCHOOLS WERE CLOSED SO CHILDREN COULD LINE THE ROUTE, BUSES WERE COMMANDEERED TO PROVIDE TRANSPORTATION, ETC.

2. MAJ. GEN. (RET.) MARCO ALMEIDA, MINISTER OF DEFENSE AND ACTING PRESIDNET DURING RODRIGUEZ' ABSENCE, DELIVERED SOME LONG AND RATHER RAMBLING WELCOME-HOME REMARKS SAYING THAT THE NATION HAD WATCHED WITH HOPE AND ASPIRATION AS PRESIDENT RODRIGUEZ UNDERTOOK HIS JOURNEY, FROM WHICH ECUADOR HAD EMERGED STRENGTHENED. HE THEN LAUNCHED INTO A HIGHLY ADULATORY ACCOUNT OF THE PRESIDENT'S MILITARY CAREER, THE END POINT OF WHICH WAS TO PRESENT RODRIGUEZ WITH "GENERAL DE DIVISION" (MAJOR GENERAL) EPAULETS. ALMEIDA HAD SIGNED THE DECREE AUTHORIZING THE PROMOTION DURING THE PRESIDENT'S ABSENCE, APPARENTLY TO SPARE RODRIGUEZ THE APPEARANCE OF HAVING PROMOTED HIMSELF.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 QUITO 01909 191959Z

3. RODRIGUEZ THEN SPOKE ABOUT HIS TRIP. "I HAVE ACCOMPLISHED THE MISSION GIVEN ME BY MY COUNTRY", HE SAID, "WITH REFERENCE TO ITS SOVEREIGNTY, THE DEFENSE OF NATURAL RESOURCES WHICH BELONG ALONE TO THE ECUADOREAN PUBLIC, AND TO MAKE COMMON CAUSE WITH THE LEGITIMATE RIGHTS OF DEVELOPING PEOPLES." RODRIGUEZ DID NOT USE THE OCCASION TO ATTACH ANY COUNTRY OR GROUP, BUT INSTEAD AS A POSITIVE REAFFIRMATION OF ECUADOR'S POSITION WITHIN THE "THIRD WORLD" AND OF THE NEED TO USE SUCH NATURAL RESOURCES AS IT HAS FOR THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL BETTERMENT OF ITS PEOPLE. THE OPEC CONFERENCE, HE DECLARED, "WAS A CONFERENCE OF SINGULAR AND TRANSCENDING IMPORTANCE, IN WHICH DIFFERENCES OF GEOGRAPHY, CIVILIZATION, AND CULTURE HAD NO MEANING, BECAUSE THERE WAS A CAUSE AND WE WERE UNITED IN DEFENSE OF THE JUST RIGHTS OF OUR PEOPLES." LATER HE REFERRED TO HIS WILLINGNESS TO NEGOTIATE WITH THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES "ON A BASIS OF JURIDICAL EQUALITY" WITH "ALL CARDS ON THE TABLE."

4. AFTER THE CEREMONIES AT THE AIRPORT, THE PRESIDENTIAL ENTOURAGE DEPARTED FOR THE PALACE, WHERE THE FORMAL REASSUMPTION OF POWER TOOK PLACE. IN REMARKS THERE, RODRIGUEZ ELABORATED ON THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE OPEC MEETING, SAYING THAT OPEC "HAS CONVERTED ITSELF INTO A BULWARK OF VINDICATION OF THE RIGHTS OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, AND WE HAVE JOINED IN THIS WITHOUT IN ANY WAY COMPROMISING OUR SOVEREIGNTY." HE WENT ON TO SAY, A PROPOS OF THE "THIRD WORLD" WITH WHICH ECUADOR SO OSTENTATIVELY ASSOCIATES ITSELF, "I HOPE THAT THE INEQUALITIES AMONG PEOPLES OF THE WORLD WILL NOT CONTINUE GROWING, WITH POWERFUL NATIONS DECIDING EVERYTHING BY FORCE, PRESSURE, OR CONTINUALLY INTERJECTING THEMSELVES INTO THE DOMESTIC AFFAIRS OF OTHER COUNTRIES."

5. COMMENT: RODRIGUEZ' REMARKS WERE CLEARLY AIMED AT HIS DOMESTIC AUDIENCE. THEY WERE ABOUT WHAT ONE WOULD HAVE EXPECTED OF A RETURNING PRESIDENT. HIS GRAND TOUR WAS A NATIONAL EVENT OF SOME MOMENT, UNUSUAL FOR AN ECUADOREAN PRESIDENT IN OFFICE, AND THE FIRST TIME RODRIGUEZ HAD SET FOOT OUTSIDE ECUADOR AS PRESIDENT. THERE IS UNQUESTIONABLY A STRONG

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 QUITO 01909 191959Z

SENSE OF NATIONAL ACHIEVEMENT AT ECUADOR'S HAVING SAT DOWN WITH KINGS, SHEIKHS, AND PRESIDENTS, AND, IT ANYTHING, IT IS WORTHY OF NOTE THAT RODRIGUEZ DID NOT USE THE HOME-COMING AS AN OCCASION TO HIT OUT AT COUNTRIES THAT HAVE BEEN RECENT ECUADOREAN TARGETS.
BREWSTER

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS, MILITARY PERSONNEL, PERSONNEL PROMOTIONS, SPEECHES, CHIEF OF STATE VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 MAR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: johnsorg
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975QUITO01909
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750096-0974
From: QUITO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750336/aaaabgik.tel
Line Count: 113
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: johnsorg
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <29 JUL 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <24 NOV 2003 by johnsorg>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESIDENT RODRIGUEZ' RETURN TO ECUADOR
TAGS: PFOR, MILI, EC, OPEC, (RODRIGUEZ LARA, GUILLERMO A)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006